

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/066 W
-----003626 081230Z /11

R 071851Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9797
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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E.O. LL652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PINT UK
SUBJECT: THE LIBERALS QUARANTINE THORPE

1. IN A MOVE TO LIMIT POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO HIS PARTY'S CAUSE IN THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION, LIBERAL LEADER DAVID STEEL YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER LEADER JEREMY THORPE, UNDER INDICTMENT FOR CONSPIRACY TO MURDER, WILL TAKE NO PART IN THE LIBERALS' NATIONAL CAMPAIGN. NEITHER DO LIBERAL SPOKESMEN INTEND TO APPEAR ON THORPE'S BEHALF IN HIS NORTH DEVON CONSTITUENCY. MR. STEEL HAS ALSO ASSUMED -- AS A "TEMPORARY MEASURE" -- THORPE'S DUTIES AS PARTY SPOKESMAN FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
2. PERHAPS COINCIDENTALLY, IT WAS DISCLOSED LAST WEEK THAT THORPE'S ARRAIGNMENT, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 12, THE PLANNED OPENING DATE OF THE LIBERAL PARTY CONFERENCE, HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 7.
3. COMMENT: THE LIBERAL PARTY'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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HAS NOW DONE ABOUT ALL IT CAN TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THE THORPE AFFAIR. GIVEN THE CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THORPE BY HIS CONSTITUENCY ORGANIZATION AND THE STRICT OBSERVANCE BY OPPOSITION PARTIES OF THE CODE OF DISCREET PUBLIC SILENCE WHICH PREVAILS HERE IN SUCH MATTERS, THE NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY COULD DO LITTLE MORE EVEN IF THEY WISHED TO.

STREATOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, PARTY SCHISMS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e056956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UK, (THORPE, JEREMY), (STEEL, DAVID)
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Type: TE
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